



# Sanofi Innovation Awards Europe (iAwards Europe)



## Call for Pre-Proposals 2019

Confidential – not to be shared outside of your Institution

### **iAwards Program Description and Objectives :**

Sanofi is a global life sciences company committed to improving access to healthcare and supporting the people we serve throughout the continuum of care.

The Sanofi Innovation Awards (*iAwards*) program was created in the US, and was launched in 2018 Europe to:

- Identify and help develop innovative and translational research proposals that could lead to the development of effective and safer therapeutic solutions for patients.
- Provide one year seed funding of 100k€ to each selected proposal, a dedicated Sanofi project champion, in-kind resources and expertise deemed necessary by Sanofi.
- Build strong relationships within each partner institution to identify early research projects aligned with Sanofi's strategic areas of interest.

Sanofi's main objective in creating the *iAwards* program is to convert successful and promising *iAwards* projects to sponsored research programs and subsequently create in-licensing and start-up opportunities with the potential to continuously enrich Sanofi's early stage portfolio. The funding level and duration for *iAwards* which are chosen for conversion into sponsored research projects will be based on the project needs.

Since 2015, 60 projects were awarded in the US by the Joint Scientific Steering Committee (JSSC).

In November 2017 Sanofi launched the *iAwards* program in Europe for 3 years and 19 projects were selected in 2018, outcome of the first call for projects.

### **Pre-Proposals:**

Please find a copy of the pre-proposal template attached, as well as some guidance on therapeutic areas and technologies of interest, and general criteria for pre-proposals. Only select members of Sanofi and your Institution will have access to your pre-proposal which shall be considered as confidential. However, we recommend that information in the pre-proposal, should not contain any confidential information and therefore unpublished information should not be disclosed in the pre-proposal. Proposals may not include third party collaborators other than those from partner institutions within the *iAwards* Program.

Please restrict your completed pre-proposal to two pages (excluding publications) in alignment with the provided guidelines.

#### **Please entitle your pre-proposal as following:**

Institution\_2019\_Sanofi\_iAwards\_Europe\_pre-proposal\_LAST  
NAME\_first name

(For the institution's name, please use the same wording as proposed in the scrolling menu of the provided template.)

Please email your completed pre-proposal(s) to:

[coordination-projet.drc@aphp.fr](mailto:coordination-projet.drc@aphp.fr)

The deadline for submission of your pre-proposal is:

**January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019.** Pre-proposals that would not respect the guidelines (format, timelines, etc.) would not be evaluated.

The timeline of the *iAwards* Europe Program is further described on page 2.

### **Therapeutic Areas of Interest and Pre-Proposal Criteria:**

The second round of the *iAwards* will focus on proposals within the following therapeutic areas: Molecular Oncology, Immunology, Immunology & Inflammation, Vaccine, Neuroscience, Rare Diseases, Rare Blood Diseases Disorders, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Biologics.

Proposals must provide objectives and work-plan achievable in 12 months and strong rationale for benefit to patients.

*Criteria for Pre-Proposals within these therapeutics areas include:*

- New and actionable knowledge about disease relevant targets, pathways and mechanisms
- Early stage compounds or biologics targeting novel disease mechanisms
- New models for validating disease relevant targets
- Technology platforms with the potential to significantly improve drug discovery and development
- Novel therapeutic modalities

### **The Academic Partners are:**

For France: Inserm, Institut Pasteur, Institut Curie, Gustave Roussy, Institut du Cerveau et de la Moelle Epinière (ICM), Institut Imagine and Assistance Publique – Hôpitaux de Paris (AP-HP)

For the United-Kingdom: The University of Cambridge and the King's College London (KCL)

For Israel: The Weizmann Institute

For Germany: The Berlin Institute of Health (BIH)\*, the German Center for Diabetes Research (DZD)\*\*, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (LMU) and Klinikum der Universität München (KUM)

\*For the BIH, scientists from Berlin Institute of Health, Charité-Universitätsmedizin Berlin and Max Delbrück Center for molecular medicine-Member of the Helmholtz Association can apply.

\*\*DZD Members that can apply are: The German Diabetes Center (DDZ) in Düsseldorf, the German Institute of Human Nutrition (Dife) in Potsdam-Rehbrücke, Helmholtz Zentrum München - German Research Center for Environmental Health, the Paul Langerhans Institute of the Helmholtz Zentrum München at University Medical Center Carl Gustav Carus of the TU Dresden (PLID) and the Institute for Diabetes Research and Metabolic Diseases of the Helmholtz Zentrum München at the University of Tübingen (IDM)

## Sanofi Therapeutic Areas of Interest for *iAwards* Europe 2019 (including but not limited to):

### MOLECULAR ONCOLOGY

Sanofi priority indications are breast, lung, head and neck, gastro-intestinal, prostate, leukemia, multiple myeloma... Pancreas and liver cancers

- Novel targets and/or early drug discovery projects in molecularly-defined cancer populations and/or lineage
- Small molecule or biologics targeted therapy programs
- Novel Targeted Therapies approaches
- Tumors microenvironment targeting programs

### VACCINES

Vaccines, Monoclonal Antibodies & Supporting Technologies

- Novel antigens and methods for antigen discovery

Tools for Improving Vaccine and Monoclonal Antibody Research, Development and Production

- Technology for studying B cell immunology and immunosenescence
- Prokaryotic or eukaryotic cell lines for antigen production
- Fermentor and bioreactor technology

Vaccine Immune Responses' Enhancers

- Adjuvants and immunomodulators
- Vaccine vectors and delivery systems

Characterization and Assay of Immune Responses and Disease Markers

- Animal models of human diseases
- In vitro models of human tissues, including the immune system

### CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASES

Cardiomyopathies

- HCM, DCM and other cardiomyopathies

Heart Failure

- HF-preserved ejection fraction (HFpEF) and HF-reduced EF (HFrEF)
- Acute HF

Atherosclerotic Vascular Diseases

- Microvascular disease
- Peripheral artery disease
- Coronary artery disease

### BIOLOGICS RESEARCH

- Specific tissue delivery of biologics
- In silico design / Computational biologics
- Intracellular biologics
- Multi specific protein formats

### IMMUNO ONCOLOGY

Mechanisms of innate and acquired resistance to checkpoint blockade

- Immuno-modulatory function of CD38
- Immuno-modulatory function of TGFb
- Immune Cell Engagers
- Systemic oncolytic viruses
- Immuno-conjugates
- Novel ADC targets
- Intra-tumoral Treg depletion, modulation of immunosuppressive myeloid lineages
- DC maturation, improved cross-presentation
- Immune profiling methodologies in preclinical and clinical setting
- Novel translational models in IO

### DIABETES

- Glucose responsive insulins
- Obesity; NAFLD & NASH
- Diabetic Kidney disease
- Beta cell protection &/or regeneration
- Diabetic heart failure & cardiomyocyte fuel utilization
- Novel delivery technologies of large molecule drugs (preferably oral)
- Insulin resistance

### RARE DISEASES

- Gene therapy approaches for rare disorders including neurometabolic, neuromuscular and ophthalmologic diseases
- Research on viral capsids with cell types specificity suitable for local, intrathecal (brain) or systemic delivery
- Novel targets, models and therapeutic concepts for inherited metabolic, nephrologic and bones diseases

### IMMUNOLOGY & INFLAMMATION

- Diseases associated with dysregulated Type 2 immune responses including Atopic Dermatitis and Asthma
- Rheumatological disorders including Lupus Erythematosus, Rheumatoid Arthritis, psoriatic arthritis and Ankylosing spondylitis
- Autoimmune sequelae of checkpoint inhibition
- Co-stimulation pathways in autoimmune and allergic diseases
- Systems Immunology and single (immune) cell analysis
- Immuno-metabolism

### NEUROSCIENCE

Novel targets / assays for proteinopathies, in particular for tau- opaties, but also a-synuclein, TDP-43

- Remyelination targets and assays, including human IPSC based assays
- Neuroprotection in neurodegenerative diseases including MS, PD, ALS
- Novel targets / models for rare genetic diseases of the central nervous system and peripheral nervous system, including gene therapy approaches
- Microglial biology, in particular in inflammatory milieu
- Blood brain barrier biology, transport mechanisms and neurovascular unit biology
- Biomarkers and imaging methodologies to facilitate disease diagnosis, progression and therapeutic efficacy, or patient stratification, for MS, PD and other neurodegenerative diseases
- Novel targets to preserve synapse number and function in neurodegenerative diseases, including MS
- Novel targets for CNS insulin resistance, cholesterol homeostasis, and ApoE4 correction
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### RARE BLOOD DISEASES DISORDERS

- Immunogenicity of FVIII and mechanisms of tolerance induction
- Detailed structural understanding of FIXa/FVIIIa/FX complex on phospholipid surfaces
- Better understanding of the relative contribution of FVIII v. VWF deficiency in causing different types of bleeds in various forms of von Willebrand Disease

Gene therapy for rare blood disorders

- Functional validation of potential regulators of fetal hemoglobin expression identified by genome-wide association studies
- Role of different components of the complement cascade in the pathophysiology of rare blood disorders, and potential biomarkers

## Sanofi Innovation Awards Europe Timeline:

Action	Due Date
Issuance of Request for Pre-proposals by Institutions	23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2018
Submission of completed Pre-Proposals to Sanofi by Institutions	3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2019
Notification by Sanofi of Pre-preproposals chosen to be pursued as Detailed Proposals	14 <sup>th</sup> February 2019
Completion and submission of Detailed Proposals to Sanofi	28 <sup>th</sup> March 2019
JSSC meets to review Detailed Proposals	By 9 <sup>th</sup> May 2019
Institutions informed of JSSC funding decisions	By 23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2019